GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3808
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2016
Report on Forest Cover
Kesineni Shri Srinivas

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in forest cover in the country, as per the latest India State of Forests Report and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
(b) whether the mangrove cover has also increased in the country and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
(c) whether the area under 'very dense forests' and 'mid-dense forests' has decreased and if so, the details and reasons therefor;
(d) the names of the States with highest loss of forest cover and the reasons therefor; and
(e) the steps taken to increase the forest cover during the last two years alongwith the future plan of the Government to raise the forest cover to 33% of the total geographical land area of the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) Forest Survey of India, Dehradun is carrying out the assessment of forest cover of the country biennially and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report. The latest report in the series is India State of Forest Report 2015. As per this report, the total forest cover of the country is 7, 01,673 square kilometers which is 21.34% of the total geographical area of the country. There is a net increase of 3775 square kilometers in the forest cover of the country as compared with India State of Forest Report-2013. The detailed list showing forest cover and change in forest cover States/UTs wise is given in Annexure I.

(b) There has been a net increase of 112 square kilometer in the mangrove cover of the country compared to India State of Forest Report 2013. The details are given in Annexure II.

(c) As per India State of Forest Report 2015, there has been an increase of 2402 square kilometer in very dense forest cover and a loss of 3371 square kilometer in the moderately dense forest cover.

(d)The details of States showing decline in forest cover and reasons therefore are given in Annexure-III.

(e)To increase forest cover in the country, afforestation Programme is taken up under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as National Afforestation Programme (NAP), Green India Mission (GIM), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) which from 2015-16 has been amalgamated as the Watershed Development Component of the "Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)" and under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), different State Plan/ Non- Plan Schemes including Externally Aided Projects. National Afforestation Programme (NAP) of the Ministry of Environment & Forests is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for afforestation and tree plantation and eco-restoration of degraded forests and adjoining areas in the country. The scheme is being implemented through a decentralized mechanism of State Forest Development agency (SFDA) at State Level Development agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at Village level. An amount of Rs. 365.93 crore has been released to the States to treat an area of around 1.12 lakh hectare during last two years and current year (2014-15 to 2016-17).
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